INTER-SHEET

INTER-SHEET is supplied in two ROMS, and so requires two ROM sockets in the BBC machine. However it is possible to install only one ROM and still use most of the spreadsheet facilities.

The ROM marked SHEET is the 16K spreadsheet ROM. This is the basic spreadsheet and is selected by typing *SHEET. All the normal facilities of the spreadsheet are available except those listed below:

'l ROM-LINK facilities, i.e.
.e abilty to run multiple sheets in memory.
The IMP maths function.
The ability to integrate directly with other ROM-LINK packages.
All ROM-LINK colon commands.
Help menus.

If these features are required then the other ROM marked INTER-SHEET has to be installed. In this case the spreadsheet is entered by typing *ISHEET as described in the manual. The priority of the two ROMs relative to each other is not important.

These ROMs are not designed to work with a 2nd processor. However we can supply a disc version of INTER-SHEET that is relocated on the 6502 2nd processor so that up to 42K storage is available. This requires one of the ROMs to be present and is sold at £4.95. No ROM-LINK facilities are available on this version.

Some additional ROM-LINK facilities have been added to INTER-SHEET since the manuals were finalised. These include the following new ROM-LINK colon commands. The user should refer to section 7 in the reference manual before attempting to use these commands.

:SAVEALL <filename>

This saves the current state of the ROM-LINK system, i.e. if you have multiple ROM-LINK packages active in memory this will save them all at once. This prevents having to enter each package in turn to save the contents. Note this works with all ROM-LINK packages so it is possible, for example, to have a couple of spreadsheets from INTER-SHEET and a few graphs from INTER-CHART, etc. This command saves them all under the one filename given.

:LOADALL filename

The opposite of the above. This loads a group of ROM-LINK packages together. They must have been saved under the previous command. This command must, like all colon commands, be issued from a ROM-LINK compatible package, but when loading, it will delete the current package and return control to the last active ROM-LINK package from which the :SAVEALL command was issued.

:INFO

This lists the name and number of each ROM-LINK package that has been activated in the past, together with the number of bytes that each package uses. The last one in the list is always the current package and the number of bytes indicates the total allocated to this package. Note that in INTER-SHEET the % free figure given on the status line shows the percentage of the allocated memory that is free.

:HELP

This lists the names of the colon commands to which this ROM responds. This is divided into two groups, the data transfer commands concerned with exporting data from the spreadsheet, and the utility commands such as those listed above. This will also list the colon commands to which any other ROM-LINK package can respond.

:PAGES

This command was provided for development and will be of interest to the technically minded only. It will list, as hex addresses, the start page of each package.

Note all the above ROM-LINK commands would normally be issued from the main menu and may be issued from any ROM-LINK package. Therefore these utilties can be used from all future ROM-LINK products.

When using one of the data transfer commands such as :GETBOXES you would normally want to transfer data from a particular package into the current one, and so it is important to specify the package from which the data is to come.

For example :IS.4:GETBOX(A1)

This specifies that the command GETBOX(A1) refers to Inter-Sheet 4.

Having imported data into the spreadsheet, it is often necessary to re-calculate the sheet by pressing TAB. This will ensure that the data is displayed correctly.

It is not normally necessary to specify the package name and number when issuing utility commands such as :INFO or :PRINT.

ERRATA

On page 42.3 the commands for getting data from a specified area of the spreadsheet should have a colon between <box1> and <box2>. So the commands :GETBOXES, :GETCONTENTS and :GETSHEET would specify the area in the normal way, e.g. :GETBOXES(A1:Z50)

On page 34 and on the quick reference card the mathematical function SGN(n) has been ommitted. Like BBC BASIC this returns the sign of the number n.

A few points not mentioned in the manuals; when exiting from TER-SHEET into BASIC the address of PAGE might have been changed. fact it is set to the start address for the last SHEET started. To set PAGE back to what it should be, simply press BREAK after entering BASIC.

On several of the commands and menu options it is possible simply to press RETURN when the computer prompts for input, in which case it will use the default setting. For example, /W A RETURN sets the width of all columns to the default 7 characters.

Menu option 5 is not fully described in the manual. Although most of it is obvious, some points require further explanation.

The background and foreground colours can be in the range 0-7 and follow the normal BBC conventions.

0 - Black
1 - Red
2 - Green
3 - Yellow
4 - Blue
5 - Magenta
6 - Cyan
7 - White

Note that on many systems the 80 and 105 column screen modes are more readable if the screen is inverted so that it has a white background 1 black foreground.

The default area setting is normally shown blank, but can be set to any specified area. Whenever the computer asks for an area to be specified, for example when saving or printing, and no area is actually entered, then it will use this default setting. If the default setting is not specified in this list then it will use the actual sheet area so far used. This means that under normal circumstances the user can simply press RETURN when asked to enter an area, and the computer will use the area of the sheet currently filled.

Whenever a number is entered into an empty box, i.e. the entry is being created for the first time, the format of the number and other features such as the justification will be set according to the default settings in menu option 5.

If however a number is entered into a box already containing a number then it will retain its previous format settings. The default settings are only used when entering a value into a box for the first time.

When selecting the print menu option (6) an additional question is asked.

Print held lines ? (Y/N)

This allows the form of on screen windowing to be replicated on the printer. See the slash commands /Hold and /Release for details. Basically these commands allow any row or column to be held on screen at any given row or column. Once held in this manner the sheet can scroll under these held lines but the lines themselves stay in the same position. This allows any portion of the sheet to be brought into view so that it is on screen at all times.

So, for example, if the first column is held to be column Z then the first column on screen will always be column Z. If printing with held lines, then likewise the first column will be printed as column Z irrespective of the actual area that is being printed.

Another example; If you had used the command /H R 99 to hold row 99 on screen at the 5th row, then when printing with held lines, the 5th row printed will be row 99. In the same manner as before, this enables you to bring parts of the sheet into the area being printed - for example, you might want the title row to be always printed at the top, or a row of totals to be printed as the last row.